

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **18 May 2016**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City and County of Swansea.

Councillor: Philip Downing	Electoral Division: Pontarddulais
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Senior Salary Position:	Chair of Development Cabinet Advisory Committee
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I held two advice surgeries each month at Canolfan-y-Bont between the hours of 5.00 and 7.00pm, where constituents came to discuss any topics. I regularly attended the local PACT meetings and addressed any complaints or queries that arose.

As a member of the Town Council I was honoured to be elected as the Towns' Mayor. I attended all but one of the Town Council meetings during the year. Minutes of these meetings and other information can be found on the council's website at www.pontarddulaiscouncil.gov.uk. I am Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Town Council provides a range of local services including: the management of the Institute to provide space for community organisations, office space for the Police, flower displays around the Town. Film shows for children, contributes to the Christmas parade, decorations, trees, and pantomime. Financial grants to worthy causes.

I am a Governor of Pontarddulais Comprehensive school where I am Chairman of the Resources/Personnel Committee. I am also Vice Chair of Governors at Pontarddulais Primary school.

I am President of Pontarddulais Football Club. The club has gone from strength to strength over the years, and now boasts a strong junior section with 12 junior sides including one girls' team, a youth side, and one Ladies Team, as well as 2 senior sides.

Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance at Council body meetings is only one of the important elements of a Councillor's duties. Councillors are also active by holding surgeries, attending meetings and dealing with general electoral division enquiries.

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below:

Communities Cabinet Advisory Committee	1 / 2	50	%
Council	18 / 18	100	%
Development Management & Control Committee	11 / 11	100	%
Economy & Investment Cabinet Advisory Committee	4 / 4	100	%
General Licensing Committee	13 / 16	81	%
Pension Fund Committee	4 / 4	100	%
Planning Committee	3 / 4	75	%
Standards Committee	1 / 3	33	%
Statutory Licensing Committee	6 / 7	86	%
Statutory Licensing Sub Committee	1 / 1	100	%
OVERALL	62 / 70	89	%

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

Scrutiny Meetings:

Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Working Group	2	/	5	40	%
Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel	7	/	11	64	%
Streetscene Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	1	/	1	100	%
Welsh Housing Quality Standard Scrutiny Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
OVERALL	11	/	18	61	%

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I was Deputy Cabinet Member; this entailed tackling specific topics given to me by Cabinet Members. As chairman of the Development Cabinet Advisory Committee, we would look at Council Policy and make suggestions to the relevant Cabinet Member, if accepted would go forward to Cabinet for adoption.

I am Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee, which looks at all licensing applications within the City and county of Swansea.

I am also Vice Chairman of the Council's Pension Fund Panel.

One of the outside bodies I served on is The Valuation Tribunal, This looks at appeals from Businesses and individuals who have grievances against their rateable values. I received a considerable number of telephone calls, and people calling at my house seeking advice and assistance on a range of issues. With 281 Council owned houses in Pontarddulais quite a number of queries related to these. I am always prepared to listen to their concerns and offer appropriate advice and support.

I walked and drove around the ward at regular intervals, talking to constituents, and reported road and pavement defects (pot holes), street lights that are not working in residential areas, damaged road signs and fly tipping.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

We used our Community Budget to install double yellow lines at various locations. Alterations to the lay-by, on St Teilo Street. (outside Arwel's). Installed bollards on Goppa Road to ensure the safety of pedestrians. Painting and window replacement to a number of bus stops. Plans were drawn up and agreed for a Pedestrian crossing on Bolgoed Road, also plans drawn up for traffic calming on Glynhir Road. Established 20mph zone around our schools and surrounding areas.

Following representation from constituents acquired road and pavement improvements. Provided support following representation from constituents through the petition process and continuously supported and negotiated for the wishes of the population of Pontarddulais where there is evidence of concern, a potential for the development of services and an improved lifestyle and a need to support potential developments for the benefit of the community.

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

13/04/2016 - S.106 Planning Agreements / Obligations

08/03/2016 - Wales Planning Act - Development Management Procedures

05/11/2015 - Introduction to Community Engagement

29/10/2015 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Training

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I regularly attended meetings of Pontarddulais Regeneration Partnership of which I am a Trustee. The partnership works with constituents of Pontarddulais to assess community needs, access grants, support the delivery of developments and ensure sustainability for on-going projects. Maintenance, and continuing development of the training centre, Canolfan Y Bont, Bont Bulletin community leaflet.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary: £22,000 Chair of Development Cabinet Advisory Committee

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=0>

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=0>

Date:	18.05.2016
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